Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know whether it will be possible to publish periodicals and pamphlets from time to time by the Agricultural Department giving information that could be supplied to local cultivators?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The department has published a number of leaflets on the subject and there is a book of leaflets which I will make available to the honourable members.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know whether it is a fact that large number of cocoanut trees are affected by the root disease?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know whether the average yield of cocoanuts remains the same for the last several years?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: No, Sir.

Indian Central Cocoanut Committee.

155. * **Mr. K. A Raman Pillai:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the functions of the Indian Central Cocoanut Committee;

(*b*) the resolutions passed by the Committee at its last meeting held in Trivandrum; and

(*c*) what steps, if any, have been taken by them to protect the cocoanut industry from outside competition?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) To promote the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of cocoanuts and their utilisation for the production of copra, cocoanut oil and cocoanut punnac and for such other purposes as the Committee may think fit—

(i) by undertaking, assisting or encouraging agricultural, industrial, technological and economic research;

(ii) by the supply of technical advice to growers;

(iii) by encouraging the adoption of improved methods of cultivation;

(iv) by carrying on such propaganda in the interests of the cocoanut industry as may be necessary;

(v) by the collecting statistics from growers, dealers, millers and other sources on all relevant matters bearing on the industry;

(vi) by fixing grade standards of copra and its products;

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(vii) by recommending the maximum and minimum prices to be fixed for copra ;

(viii) by advising on all matters which require attention for the development of the industry :

(ix) by improving the marketing of cocoanuts in India and abroad and suggesting suitable measures to prevent unfair competition ; and

(x) by adopting any other measures or performing any other duties which it may be required by the Central Government to adopt or perform or which it may itself think necessary or advisable in order to carry out the purposes of the Indian Cocoanut Committee Act 1944.

(*b*) The Committee has not authorised publication of its proceedings.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of the Indian Central Cocoanut Committee.

Cultivation of Cotton.

156. * **Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether a scheme has been sanctioned by Government for the cultivation of cotton ;

(*b*) if so, what are the areas selected for the cultivation of cotton in the country ; and

(*c*) what progress has been made so far in regard to the cultivation of cotton ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In South Travancore round about Aramboly where cotton will grow very well.

(*c*) Two crops of cotton have been raised in about 40 acres of land during the current year. The yield works out on an average to about 250 lbs. of medium staple *kapas* per acre which should be considered a good yield under unirrigated conditions. Selected cotton seeds have been distributed for cultivation among a few leading cultivators in that area.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai : May I know what is the soil suitable for the cultivation of cotton ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : A light red earth where the rainfall is comparatively less.

Village Unions.

157. * **Mr. Paul A. Thaliath :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Village Unions working in the State as on 15-12-1120 ;

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